

Amendments to the Claims

1-6. (Cancelled)

7. (Currently amended) A method for removing Mn from a cobalt sulfate solution comprising the steps of:

adjusting a pH of the solution within the range of ~~above~~ 2.5 to 6;

adding sodium hypochlorite (NaOCl) as an oxidative agent to the solution to attain an oxidation-reduction potential in the range of 1100 to 1300 mV with respect to a standard hydrogen electrode (SHE), thus forming a precipitate of Mn; and

removing the precipitated Mn from the solution.

8. (Previously presented) The method of claim 7 wherein the precipitated Mn is removed by a solid/liquid separation.

9. (Previously presented) The method of claim 8 wherein the solid/liquid separation is a filtration.

10. (Previously presented) The method of claim 7 wherein the temperature of the cobalt sulfate solution during the addition of the oxidative agent is from 20°C to 100°C.

11. (Previously presented) The method of claim 7 wherein the oxidative agent is added at a rate of 0.001 to 0.005 liter of the NaOCl solution with a concentration of 1 wt. % per minute per liter of the cobalt sulfate solution.

12. (Previously presented) The method of claim 7 wherein the pH of the solution is maintained within the range of 1.5 to 2.5 during the addition of the oxidative agent.